

Published for the friends of "The President's Own"

notes

September
October

Greetings from the Southwest Tour!

Marine Bandmen pose next to a cactus outside of Phoenix on the 1930 tour.

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POSTCARD FROM TOUR

BY GUNNERY SERGEANT KRISTIN Mergen

Many images spring to mind when one thinks of the Marine Band on its annual tour: brilliant red, white, and blue uniforms under bright lights; lengthy cross-country bus rides; and the electricity in the air when the band strikes up “The Stars and Stripes Forever” and The Armed Forces Medley. These performances are the end result of careful planning and negotiations between the National Tour Director Mr. Andrew Linden and local sponsors who agree to provide a venue, advertise the concert, and print and distribute tickets. These sponsors’ involvement is critical to the annual tour’s success.

“When I research and plan the itinerary for each year’s concert tour, in addition to identifying new sponsors and venues in cities where we have not performed before, I review past tour performances that were highly successful,” Mr. Linden said. “That is to say, previous Marine Band sponsors who provided excellent venues and attracted outstanding audiences.”

This year’s sojourn to the southwest includes stops in Winston-Salem, N.C., and Little Rock, Ark. The sponsors for these performances have hosted the Marine Band an astounding four and five times, respectively.

Dr. Lee David Legette is a professor of music in the Department of Fine Arts at Winston-Salem State University where he teaches saxophone, music education methods courses, and conducts a university jazz ensemble.

After he attended the Marine Band’s 1993 performance at the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, he approached the band’s representatives at the convention booth to discuss the possibility of bringing the band to Winston-Salem.

“Everyone was so helpful,” he said. “The Marine Band sponsorship process appears to be a well-oiled machine. My experience has been that if you follow the plan as closely as possible, you will get good results.”

Dr. Legette is excited about bringing the band back to Winston-Salem for the fourth time. “I am ... honored to have the opportunity,” Dr. Legette said. “The Marine Band is highly regarded in this community ... and we always get a great response. I have looked forward to each and every performance with great anticipation, and count myself fortunate to

have it come back again.”

“[‘The President’s Own’] has had a long tradition of serving the nation by offering performances and master classes throughout the country to diverse populations ... some of which might otherwise rarely get an opportunity to hear a band of its caliber,” he said.

The Marine Band’s last performance in Little Rock prior to James Harvey’s involvement was in 1972. Mr. Harvey is a retired chief executive officer of Central Arkansas Water (CAW) and a former Marine who served from 1957 to 1963. He first heard about sponsoring a Marine Band tour concert after he met Sergeant Steven Kirtley, one of those held captive during the Iran hostage crisis that began in 1979. According

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THE SOLOISTS

The Marine Band’s 2010 tour to Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico will feature two veteran tour soloists in addition to several others who will make their tour solo debut. Principal trombone and Texas native Master Gunnery Sergeant Bryan Bourne will return for his fourth solo, this time as a member of a trombone quartet including fellow Texans Gunnery Sgt. Chris Clark, Staff Sgt. Samuel Barlow, and Staff Sgt. Daniel Brady. “Being a tour soloist is always exciting,” Master Gunnery Sgt. Bourne said. “It’s a lot of work to get in really good shape but I always grow from the experience.”

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The 2010 tour soloists include (from left) euphonium player Gunnery Sgt. Mark Jenkins; a trombone quartet featuring Staff Sgts. Samuel Barlow and Daniel Brady, Gunnery Sgt. Chris Clark, and Master Gunnery Sgt. Bryan Bourne; baritone vocalist Gunnery Sgt. Kevin Bennear; and flutist Staff Sgt. Ellen Dooley.

WHITE HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS

- “Let’s Move” Visit with Olympians
- Earth Day Reception
- Naturalization Ceremony for Active Duty Service Members
- 2009 World Series Champion New York Yankees Visit
- National Teacher of the Year Event
- White House Correspondents’ Association Dinner
- Presentation of Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy to the U.S. Naval Academy Football Team
- Cinco de Mayo Reception
- Mother’s Day Tea
- Ceremony Honoring TOP COPS
- 2010 NCAA Women’s Basketball Champion University of Connecticut Huskies Visit
- State Dinner Honoring Mexico’s President Felipe Calderon
- Signing of Presidential Memorandum on Fuel Efficiency Standards
- Presentation of Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song to Sir Paul McCartney
- Ford’s Theatre Gala
- Affordable Care Act and the New Patients’ Bill of Rights Release
- Federal Judges’ Reception
- Independence Day Celebration

MARINE BANDSMAN PERFORMS FOR SIR PAUL MCCARTNEY

By Gunnery Sergeant Amanda Simmons

On June 2, Sir Paul McCartney was honored by President Barack Obama in the East Room of the White House with the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song as part of PBS’s “In Performance at the White House.” The Gershwin Prize is named in honor of the legendary brothers George and Ira Gershwin and recognizes the impact of popular music on the world’s culture.

“Initially for the event the White House requested that we provide a Marine Jazz Combo to perform a McCartney set as guests arrived,” Operations Officer Chief Warrant Officer 5 William A. Perry stated. “A few weeks later, we were notified that the producers of the show had an additional request. They thought it would be a nice touch if a member of the Marine Band played the famous solo piccolo trumpet part in ‘Penny Lane.’ ”

The producers were drawn to the symbolism of the Marine Band’s distinct uniform; the scarlet blouse resembles those featured on The Beatles’ “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band” album cover. Director Colonel Michael J. Colburn selected Marine Band solo cornetist Master Sergeant Matthew Harding to perform the piece with Elvis Costello and McCartney’s band.

“This White House experience was different from those I had in the past,” Master Sgt. Harding said. “As a trumpet player, I’m usually performing as a part of the larger ensemble and I have very little interaction with guests

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FEATURED DOWNLOADS

SEPTEMBER

March of the Month

“The High School Cadets”
John Philip Sousa*

New Music Corner

Awake, You Sleepers! (2001-02)
Laurence Bitensky
*John Hagstrom**, guest trumpet soloist

OCTOBER

March of the Month

“The Transit of Venus”
John Philip Sousa*

Director's Choice

Ancient Airs and Dances,
Suite No. 1
Ottorino Respighi

*Member, U.S. Marine Band

For more information, visit www.marineband.usmc.mil

Fall Chamber Series Sundays at 2 p.m. John Philip Sousa Band Hall

Sept. 12
Oct. 10
Oct. 17
Oct. 24

The concerts are free and open to the public. Free parking is available. John Philip Sousa Band Hall is located at 7th & L Streets, SE, in Washington, D.C.

TOUR continued from page 1

to Mr. Harvey, while Sgt. Kirtley was serving a tour of duty at the Little Rock Recruiting Office he called Mr. Harvey and asked him if he would sponsor the Marine Band. Mr. Harvey would have jumped at the chance but the timing wasn't right and he was forced to pass up the opportunity.

In 1990 he heard the band was returning to Arkansas and initiated a sponsorship by the Rotary Club of Little Rock. But this time the Robinson Center Music Hall was booked by the Arkansas Education Association (AEA) the morning the band was scheduled to be in town. As luck would have it, the

person who supervised the Music Hall was also an employee of CAW. They worked together to convince the AEA to end their event early so the Marine Band could perform.

Mr. Harvey recounts past experiences with the band: "I think the very best memory of the band, besides always having a full Music Hall and having folks beg for tickets, was when I arranged to take the band members on a boat trip on the Arkansas River and, as I like to say, got a standing ovation from the United States Marine Band! Also, taking the band members on a very special guided tour of the [Clinton Presidential] library and hearing members

say 'there is my picture!'"

"These are just two of the 29 generous sponsors in cities stretching from Harrisonburg, Va., to Albuquerque, N.M., who stepped forward to do the 'heavy lifting' to host 'The President's Own,'" Mr. Linden said. "We are grateful to each and every one of them."

The 2010 tour itinerary may be found on pages 4-5. If you or someone you know would like to sponsor the Marine Band, please contact National Tour Director Andrew Linden at andrew.linden@usmc.mil.



SOLOISTS continued from page 1

The quartet will perform *Southwest Showcase*, an original work by Marine Band chief arranger Master Sergeant Stephen Bulla. "The form of the piece is a collection of songs that refer to the areas in which the band is touring, with just a few extra nods to Texas," Master Sgt. Bulla said. "Much like the technique used in Copland's *El Salon Mexico*, I've included regional themes like 'Arkansas Traveler' and 'Oh Susanna' plus other southwest traditional melodies including 'I Ride an Old Paint' and 'Great Grandad.' It will be a real showcase for our trombone quartet, with the band accompanying the familiar songs of the southwest."

Baritone vocalist Gunnery Sgt. Kevin Benneer is looking forward to returning to the area of the country where he made his first tour with the band. "I remember the patrons were so down-to-earth and genuine. It was a pleasure to sing for them," he said. Among his solos he will perform a tribute to Mario Lanza, including the well-known "Be My Love" and "With a Song in My Heart."

First-time tour soloist and graduate of the University of North Texas in Denton, Gunnery Sgt. Mark Jenkins chose Vladimir Cosma's Euphonium Concerto as his solo. "Cosma was a violinist, so this piece includes lots of characteristic violin runs," Gunnery Sgt. Jenkins said. "This presents some interesting challenges for a euphonium player. I feel honored to be asked to be a soloist."

Flutist Staff Sgt. Ellen Dooley, also a first-time soloist, is excited to revisit the route she took on her first tour in 2005. "On that tour, I noticed how friendly and enthusiastic the audiences were night after night," she said. "I was also very impressed with the quality of the music programs in the schools and how well supported music education is in this part of the country!"

"Performing around the country is an important part of what we do and being asked to perform as a soloist in 11 different states is an absolute thrill for me," she said.

2010 TOUR ITINERARY

The 2010 Tour Itinerary is as follows.
Dates, locations, and times are subject to change. For ticket information, call the number listed or mail a self-addressed stamped envelope to the address below, **ATTN: Marine Band Tickets**. For detailed program information, please visit www.marineband.usmc.mil.

Friday, October 1, 7:30 p.m.
Harrisonburg, VA
Harrisonburg High School Auditorium
Daily News-Record
P.O. Box 193
Harrisonburg, VA 22803
(540) 574-6200

Saturday, October 2, 7:30 p.m.
Beckley, WV
Woodrow Wilson High School Auditorium
The Register-Herald
P.O. Box 2398
Beckley, WV 25802
(304) 255-4424

Sunday, October 3, 3 p.m.
Blacksburg, VA
Burruss Auditorium
Virginia Tech University
UUSA Ticket Office
129 Squires Student Center
Blacksburg, VA 24061
(540) 231-5615

Monday, October 4, 7:30 p.m.
Winston-Salem, NC
Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium
Winston-Salem State University
Dr. David Legette
Winston-Salem State University
Campus Box 19432
Winston-Salem, NC 27110
(336) 750-2530

Tuesday, October 5, 7:30 p.m.
Boone, NC
Farthing Auditorium
Appalachian State University
Farthing Auditorium Box Office
P.O. Box 32057
Boone, NC 28608
(828) 262-4046

Wednesday, October 6, 7:30 p.m.
Maryville, TN
Clayton Center for the Arts
Clayton Center for the Arts Box Office
502 East Lamar Alexander Parkway
Maryville, TN 37804-5907
(865) 981-8590

Thursday, October 7, 7:30 p.m.
Nashville, TN
Allen Arena, Lipscomb University
Marine Corps League
Music City Detachment 378
P.O. Box 110145
Nashville, TN 37222-0145
(615) 406-4313

Friday, October 8, 7:30 p.m.
Florence, AL
Norton Auditorium
University of North Alabama
University of North Alabama
Dept. of Music and Theatre
P.O. Box 5240
Florence, AL 35632
(256) 765-4361

Saturday, October 9, 7:30 p.m.
Birmingham, AL

The Leslie
Stephen Wright Center
Samford University
School of the Arts
800 Lakeshore Drive
Birmingham, AL 35229
(205) 726-2485

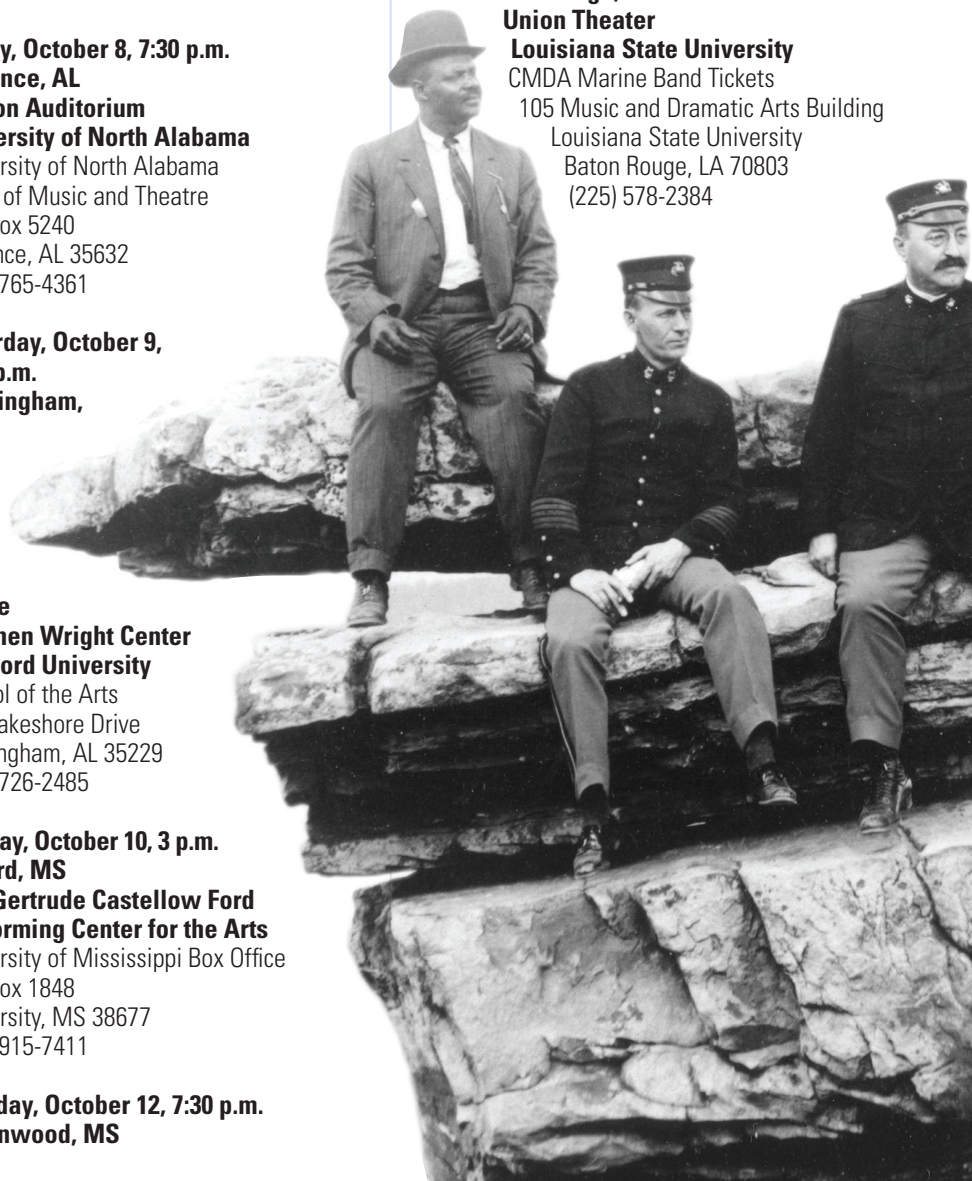
Sunday, October 10, 3 p.m.
Oxford, MS
The Gertrude Castellow Ford
Performing Center for the Arts
University of Mississippi Box Office
P.O. Box 1848
University, MS 38677
(662) 915-7411

Tuesday, October 12, 7:30 p.m.
Greenwood, MS

Leflore County Civic Center
119 West Market Street
Greenwood, MS 38930
(662) 453-1255

Wednesday, October 13, 7:30 p.m.
Summit, MS
Fine Arts Center
Southwest Mississippi Community College
Enterprise-Journal
P.O. Box 2009
McComb, MS 39648
(601) 684-2421

Thursday, October 14, 7:30 p.m.
Baton Rouge, LA
Union Theater
Louisiana State University
CMDA Marine Band Tickets
105 Music and Dramatic Arts Building
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
(225) 578-2384



Marine Band Director Capt. William H. Santelmann (center) visit Lookout Mountain near Chattanooga, Tenn., during the

Friday, October 15, 7:30 p.m.
Pineville, LA
Guinn Auditorium, Louisiana College
Louisiana College Dept. of Music
1140 College Drive
Pineville, LA 71359
(318) 487-7336

Saturday, October 16, 7:30 p.m.
Ruston, LA
Howard Center for the Performing Arts
Louisiana Tech University
Lincoln Parish Visitors Center
P.O. Box 1383
Ruston, LA 71273-1383
(318) 255-2031



Sunday, October 17, 3 p.m.
Pine Bluff, AR
HYPR Gymnasium
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
UAPB Music Dept/Band
1200 University Drive
Mail Slot 4809
Pine Bluff, AR 71601
(870) 575-8919

Monday, October 18, 7:30 p.m.
Little Rock, AR
Robinson Center Music Hall

P.O. Box 242510
Little Rock, AR 72223
(501) 227-4727

Tuesday, October 19, 7:30 p.m.
Alma, AR
Alma Performing Arts Center
Times Record
P.O. Box 1359
Fort Smith, AR 72902
(479) 785-7886

Wednesday, October 20, 7:30 p.m.
Tulsa, OK
Chapman Hall
Tulsa Performing Arts Center
Tulsa Performing Arts Center Ticket Office
110 East Second Street
Tulsa, OK 74103
(918) 596-7111

Thursday, October 21, 8 p.m.
Norman, OK
Paul F. Sharp Concert Hall
Catlett Music Center
University of Oklahoma
University of Oklahoma
Catlett Music Center Ticket Office
500 West Boyd Street
Norman, OK 73019
(405) 325-4101

Saturday, October 23, 7:30 p.m.
Elk City, OK

Pioneer Center Arena
Elk City High School
Elk City Arts Council
P.O. Box 852
Elk City, OK 73648
(580) 225-5461

Sunday, October 24, 3 p.m.
Lawton, OK
McMahon Memorial Auditorium
MacArthur High School Band
4400 East Gore Boulevard
Lawton, OK 73501
(580) 355-5280

Monday, October 25, 7 p.m.
Fort Worth, TX
Bass Performance Hall
Bass Performance Hall
330 East Fourth Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102

(817) 212-4280

Tuesday, October 26, 7:30 p.m.
Richardson, TX
Charles W. Eisemann Center
www.eisemanncenter.com/tickets/
(972) 744-4650

Wednesday, October 27, 7:30 p.m.
Abilene, TX
Behrens Chapel Auditorium
Hardin-Simmons University
Hardin-Simmons University
School of Music and Fine Arts
Box 16320
Abilene, TX 79698-6230
(325) 691-2264

Thursday, October 28, 7:30 p.m.
Midland, TX
Robert E. Lee High School Auditorium
N-Tune Music & Sound
1141 East 42nd
Odessa, TX 79762
(432) 522-1212

Friday, October 29, 7:30 p.m.
Lubbock, TX
Lubbock Memorial Civic Center
Theater
Lubbock Avalanche Journal
710 Avenue J
Lubbock, TX 79401
(806) 766-2167

Saturday, October 30, 7:30 p.m.
Clovis, NM
Marshall Middle School Auditorium
Clovis Municipal Schools
1000 Main Street
Clovis, NM 88101
(575) 769-4300

Sunday, October 31, 3 p.m.
Albuquerque, NM
Popejoy Concert Hall
University of New Mexico
Popejoy Concert Hall
MSC 04 2580
1 University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001
(505) 277-3824

BAND MEMBER NEWS

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at the Executive Mansion. Typically our solo harpist or pianists have more opportunities to be in intimate settings with the President."

In addition to Costello, other featured performers included last year's honoree Stevie Wonder, the Jonas Brothers, Herbie Hancock, Corinne Bailey Rae, Dave Grohl, Faith Hill, Emmylou Harris, Lang Lang, and Jack White. Remarks were given by Jerry Seinfeld.

"One of the best parts about the experience was the rehearsal for the event," Master Sgt. Harding stated. "The dress rehearsal was really low-key. All of the celebrity musicians were watching each other prepare. It was neat to look out in the audience and see famous artists such as Stevie Wonder listening."

"In Performance at the White House" spans every administration since President Jimmy Carter and began with an East Room recital by legendary pianist Vladimir Horowitz in 1978. Since its inception, the program has featured American pop, country, gospel, jazz, and the blues. Due to its close relationship with the White House, the Marine Band has been featured numerous times on the program.

In the 1980s First Lady Nancy Reagan introduced an "In Performance at the White House" concert saying, "Ever since this wonderful house was built, it's been filled with music. Thomas Jefferson played his violin and Harry Truman played his piano in this room. The Marine Band has serenaded countless foreign dignitaries at State Dinners and some of the world's most dazzling performers have appeared beneath these chandeliers."

STAFF LINES



GySgt Russell Wilson

*Keyboardist/
accordionist*

BIRTHDAY
April 21, 1981

HOMETOWN
Clinton, Md.

FAMILY
Married to Elizabeth;
Barnabas, 16 months

EDUCATION

BM and MM, both from the University of Maryland in College Park

JOINED THE BAND
2002

SELF-PORTRAIT

Steady, easy-going, thankful

FAVORITE SAYING OR MOTTO

"Don't go knocking on people's doors to tell them how great you are."

PET PEEVES

Two different pieces of music playing at the same

time; slowpokes in the fast lane

BAD HABIT

Losing my keys

WALTER MITTY FANTASY

Playing accordion for tips on a sidewalk in New Orleans

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT IN BAND

The combo and I were playing "Movin' Out" by Billy Joel at the White House when Jack Black, a guest that night, belted it out with us, adding motorcycle sound effects at the end.

INSPIRATION

Jesus, Frédéric Chopin, Oscar Peterson

FAVORITE MOVIE

"The Green Mile"

WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE

David Schwimmer from "Friends"

FAVORITE PIECE OF MUSIC

Chopin's Ballade No. 1 in G minor

PLACE YOU'D MOST LIKE TO BE STRANDED

St. Kitts in the Caribbean (my honeymoon spot)

FAVORITE FOODS

Steamed spiced shrimp with Old Bay and cocktail

sauce followed by Breyer's Cookies & Cream ice cream

HOBBIES

Tetris, leading the youth group at church, walking each day with Elizabeth

THREE THINGS ALWAYS FOUND IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR

Salsa, thousand island dressing, lettuce

MOST INFLUENTIAL TEACHER

Dr. Gail McDonald, Temple Hills, Md., my first piano teacher from 2nd through 12th grades

BOOKS AT BEDSIDE

Bible, "One Thing You Can't Do in Heaven" by Mark Cahill

LAST WORDS

"Come Near to God, and He will Come Near to You." James 4:8

GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT

Winning 2nd place in the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest in May 2010

BEST-KEPT SECRET

In 12th grade I played percussion in the Maryland all-state orchestra

LUXURY DEFINED

A desk empty of papers, a sink empty of dishes, a hamper empty of clothes, an inbox empty of emails

On Aug. 6, 1988, the Marine Chamber Orchestra accompanied artists Shirley Jones, Stubby Kaye, and Marvin Hamlisch on the south lawn of the White House for the show's "Salute to Broadway: Chorus Lines." In 2001, "The President's Own" was honored as the featured performer. Hosted by Gerald McRaney and Larry Gatlin, the show also featured Nell Carter and Toby Keith. Through narration and song, viewers traveled through the Marine Band's history at the White House.

On July 28, the celebration in honor of McCartney was broadcast on PBS stations as "In Performance at the White House Celebrating the Music of Paul McCartney: The Library of Congress Gershwin Prize." Patrons may watch it, as well as previous shows on the web, at www.pbs.org/inperformanceatthewhitehouse/past.php.



Free Country, the Marine Band's contemporary country music ensemble, will return to Harpers Ferry, W.V., at 6 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 4. The group includes three West Virginia natives, above from left, bassist Master Sgt. Aaron Clay, vocalist Gunnery Sgt. Kevin Benneer, and violinist Master Gunnery Sgt. Peter Wilson. For more information on location and program, please visit www.marineband.usmc.mil.

NEW MEMBER

Assistant Drum Major **Gunnery Sergeant Duane F. King**, of Jacksonville, Fla., enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1994 and attended recruit training at Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot in Beaufort, S.C. Following recruit training, he attended the basic course at the Armed Forces School of Music in Little Creek, Va., then received orders to the Marine Forces Reserve (MARFORRES) Band in New Orleans in 1995. In 2000, he received orders to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms Band in California then returned to the School of Music where he completed the Ceremonial Conductor/Drum Major course in 2002. After completing the course he reported to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island Band and remained there until 2005 when he returned to the MARFORRES Band, serving as the drum major.



RETIREMENT

Clarinetist **Gunnery Sergeant Nan Lopata** of Reading, Pa., retired in June after 22 years with "The President's Own."



MARINE BAND CONTACT INFORMATION

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email: marineband.publicaffairs@usmc.mil

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